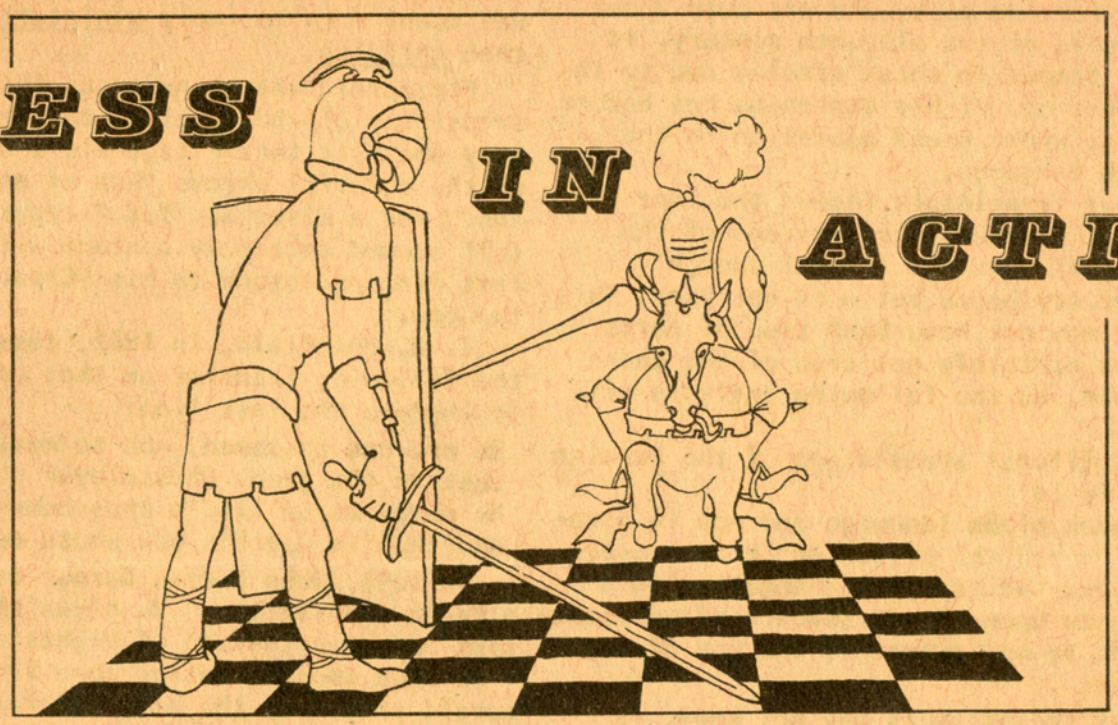
# CHESS IN ACTION



* * * * * * * * * JULY - AUGUST, 1960 * * * * * *

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## WARNING TO ALL KIBITZERS !!!!!!!!!!!

On June 1, 1960, the quiet of a chess game in a Greenwich Village (New York) literary haunt was broken by an argument, a fight, and the death of a kibitzer. The scene was Chumley's, a restaurant rendezvous for authors, editors, newspapermen, poets, and chessplayers for some 32 years back.

Bartender Ray Guillano, 61, who has averaged ten games a night, year after year, was playing chess with Loren Disney, 54, a free lance reporter. Clinton Curtis, 43, a free lance book editor, was looking on.

Then in strode Michael George, 34, a chess playing merchant seaman from the tanker Trimbles Ford, docked at Elizabeth, New Jersey. The sailor said in a loud voice: "I can whip any man in the house." At most bars, of course, this could only have meant one thing but at Chumley's it meant a game of chess.

"I'll play for any amount" shouted George - "$10, $100, or $200."

Loren Disney declined to wager but agreed to play him. Disney won. Clinton Curtis then criticised the seaman's strategy and they began to argue hotly. Police say that Curtis swung at George and that George, apparently forgetting he was holding a glass of beer, swung back. The glass shattered and cut Curtis's jugular vein. He was dead when the ambulance arrived and George was held on a charge of homicide.

"It was just crazy", said Disney. "There we were, just playing chess. And then this guy walks in wanting to play for money. No one plays chess for $200 - not at Chumley's."

## OMAR KHAYYAM ON THE GREAT GAME

The Persian poet, who was born about the middle of the eleventh century, is justly famous in chess circles due to the fact that one of his quatrains has become the best known chess quotation in the English language.

Later translatots formed the impression that Fitzgerald's versions of the "Rubaiyat" were not literal enough - were pretty poems but were not Omar. This may or may not have been true of parts but was certainly not true of the chess quatrain, as the following analysis will show.

The literal translation of the Persian actually is:

To speak plain language and not in parables, we are the pieces and Heaven plays the game. We are played together in a baby-game upon the chessboard of existence and one by one return to the box of non-existence.

What chessplayers may not know, is that Fitzgerald changed his translation from the Persian twice. The 1st edition of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam", in 1859 showed the quatrain thus:

'Tis all a Chequer-board of Nights and Days
Where Destiny with Men for Pieces plays;
Hither and thither moves and mates and slays,
And one by one back in the Closet lays.

The 2nd edition, that appeared nine years later, in 1868, showed all but the last line changed.

Impotent Pieces of the Game He plays
Upon this Chequer-board of Nights and Days;
Hither and thither moves and checks and slays,
And one by one back in the Closet lays.

The 3rd and 4th Editions, published in 1872 and 1879 respectively, showed another change - in the first line:

But helpless Pieces of the Game He plays
Upon this Chequer-board of Nights and Days;
Hither and thither moves and checks and slays,
And one by one back in the Closet lays.

The translations of Fitzgerald, as can be seen, first cuts out the unnecessary opening "To speak plain language and not in parables". It further cuts out the unnecessary and untrue reference to chess as a "baby-game" unless this term was meant more to imply <u>miniaturization</u> than <u>childish</u>.

Fitzgerald was by no means the only translator of the Rubaiyat and there were many who felt that Fitzgerald's omission of the colorful phrase "box of non-existence" was a mistake. Yet Fitzgerald himself seemed extremely content with his last line and stuck to his "Closet" to the end.

E. H. Whinfield, in 1882, came up with the following translation that endeavoured to improve the last line:

We are but chessmen, who to move are fain
Just as the great Chessplayer doth ordain;
He moves us on life's chessboard to and fro,
And then in death's box shuts us up again.

In 1897, John Leslie Garner came up with a fresh translation. He gives the idea of joys and woes instead of Nights and Days - an idea though, culled more from Fitzgerald than from the original Persian. He also improves the last line somewhat.

Upon this checkerboard of joys and woes
The wretched puppet hither and thither goes,
Until the mighty Player of the skies
His playthings back in the casket throws.

Later translators came up with many different versions. A few of these now follow. I suppose that few will agree as to which is actually the best of them all.

We're the pieces Heaven moves on the chessboard of space
(No metaphor this, but the truth of the case);
Each awhile on Life's board plays his game and returns
In the box of nonentity back to his place.
(John Payne, 1898)

When on the chessboard of life here below
Thou dost thy magic glance benignly throw
Pawns, castles, kings and knights all give thee place.
'Tis not a fancy of disordered brains,
but certain truth, that on life's checkered square,
We men are puppets, whose steps God ordains;
The time is short in which we dally there
Then in death's casket one by one we fall,
The game is played and earth must cover all.

Mrs. H.M.Cadell, 1899

(continued on page 6 Column 1).

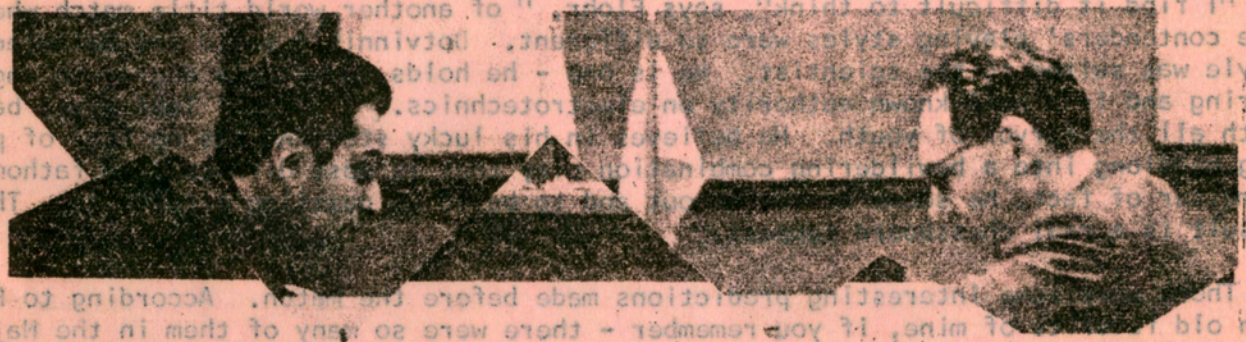
# NEW WORLD CHAMPION

# TAHL DEFEATS BOTVINNIK

## 12.5-8.5

By Salo Flohr, Grandmaster

(CULLED FROM "USSR")

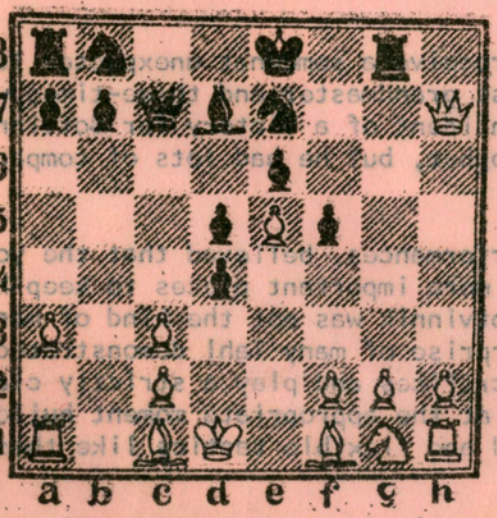


**Tense Moments in an Exciting Match**

**Tahl's Victory in Opening Game**

White—Tahl Black—Botvinnik

White to play



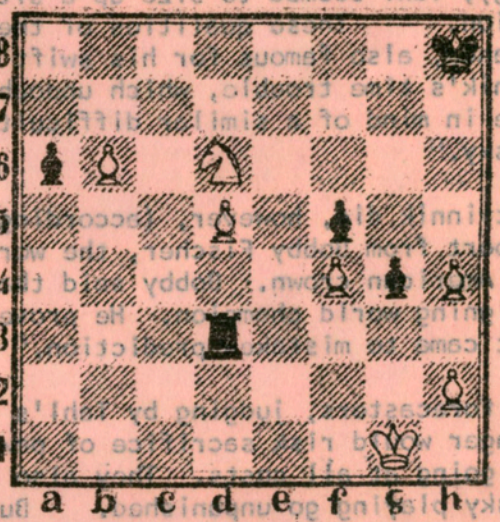
After an hour of play in the opening game Botvinnik and Tahl reached this tricky position. The challenger went on from there to score his first victory which had a great psychological effect on the outcome of the match. The game continued as follows:

12. Q-KR5ch, Kt-KKt3; 13. Kt-K2, P-Q6; 14. PxP, B-QR5ch; 15. K-K1, QxP(K4); 16. B-KKt5, Kt-QB3; 17. P-Q4, Q-QB2; 18. P-KR4, P-K4; 19. R-KR3, Q-KB2; 20. PxP, KtxP; 21. R-K3, K-Q2 and Tahl went on to win after 31 moves.

**When Clocks Don't Bother**

White—Botvinnik Black—Tahl

White to play



It was in this exceptionally interesting position in the eighth game that Botvinnik sealed his 41st move. What move had he made? White has a big choice: the continuation of 41. P-QKt7, R-QKt6; 42. Kt-KB7ch, K-KR2 could even mean a losing game for him. Many grandmasters, Dr. Euwe and Smyslov included, believed that White would win by playing 41. K-KB2, but an analysis showed that Tahl would in this case be able to achieve a draw. Botvinnik spent half an hour pondering over the position and then sealed the strongest move: 41. Kt-KB7ch. Tahl resigned, because the decisive reply to 42. . . . K-KR2 would be 42. P-Q6. Should Black play 41. . . . K-KKt2 then the continuation

## MORE ON THE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

As usual during the summer months, one has to scratch around more than somewhat for material for "Chess in Action", and so I was more than delighted to happen upon the July, 1960 edition of U S S R - a "LIFE"-like magazine, very interesting and well-produced and find therein an article by Salo Flohr on the recent World Championship between Tahl and Botvinnik. Highlights in some of the games are reproduced on the following two pages. Below, are some of the more interesting parts of the accompanying article.

"I find it difficult to think", says Flohr, " of another world title match where the contenders' playing styles were so different. Botvinnik's solid and balanced style was suited to the scientist. He is one - he holds a doctor's degree in engineering and is a well-known authority on electrotechnics. Mikhail Tahl gives battle with all the fervor of youth. He believes in his lucky star and has no fear of plunging headlong into a bewildering combination play that is most difficult to fathom. As a matter of fact, he seems to search out and to build up puzzling situations. The result is a real chessboard tempest."

There were some interesting predictions made before the match. According to Flohr (an old favorite of mine, if you remember - there were so many of them in the Najdorf-Astoria) Max Euwe, the Dutch Grandmaster and ex-world champion, put it aptly on a recent visit to Moscow when he said: "The Botvinnik-Tahl match would be a battle between ice and fire." It was Tahl's fire and fervor that won the day. While Botvinnik almost always needed more time than he had to carry through his deep-laid strategy, Tahl seemed to size up a situation with lightning speed and photo-lens precision. These qualities of the new champion reminded many people of Jose Capablanca, also famous for his swift play when younger. To make another comparison-Botvinnik's time trouble, which undoubtedly told on the results of some of the games, put one in mind of a similar difficulty experienced by American grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky."

"Botvinnik did, however, (according to Flohr) receive a somewhat unexpected letter of support from Bobby Fischer, the world's youngest grandmaster and three-times winner of the American crown. Bobby said that he was confident of a victory for Botvinnik, the reigning world champion. He proved a poor prophet, but he had lots of company when it came to mistaken prediction."

"These forecasters, judging by Tahl's previous performances, believed that the young challenger would risk sacrifice of pawns and even more important pieces to keep his attack going at all costs. They also knew that Botvinnik was not the kind of man to let risky playing go unpunished. But to the surprise of many Tahl demonstrated that when it was necessary, he could manage without sacrifices and play a strictly classical game. He showed too that like Botvinnik he could at the appropriate moment build up a slight gain into a big advantage. It was varied and flexible tactics like these that gave Tahl the victory. "

"It must be said, in all fairness that Botvinnik was not in best form. This may be due partly to the fact that he has done very little tournament playing lately. He still has a chance to win back the crown next year - he is entitled to a return match by decision of the International Chess Federation. It's worth remembering that once he succeeded in winning back the title after he had been defeated by Vasili Smyslov."

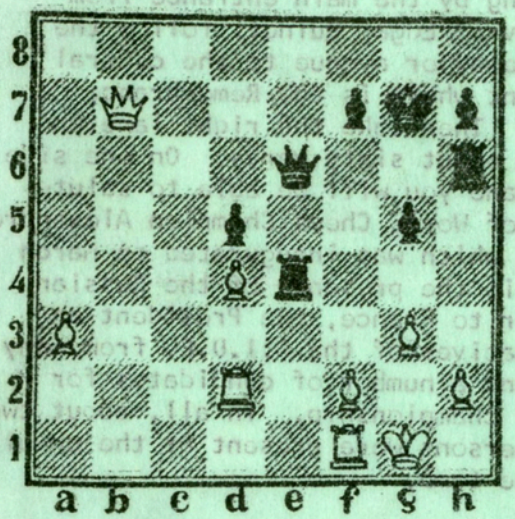
"The contest aroused great interest in the Soviet Union and abroad. All leading newspapers published the results and many gave move-by-move descriptions. Special chess bulletins were broadcast every evening and prominent grandmasters gave their comments. The games were also televised. So that all modern means of communication were placed at the service of one of man's most ancient games, a game which, for all its years, shows no sign of age. On the contrary, chess seems to be growing in vigor with the infusion of young blood from every part of the world, including the far off Arctic and Antarctic whence messages of congratulations were transmitted to the new champion. **********

would be 42. P-QKt7, R-QKt3; 43. Kt-Q8, K-KB1; 44. P-KR5. Tahl finds himself in a hopeless situation. This instance shows that Botvinnik, if he has sufficient time, can discover the best move.

### Strained Nerves

White—Botvinnik Black—Tahl

Black to play



Many of the games in the match ended in a draw, but a sharp struggle took place in practically all of them. The opponents were under great physical and mental tension throughout the two-month encounter. It was not surprising, therefore, that one of them cracked under the strain in the heat of battle and suffered from "chess blindness," as this distressing trouble is called.

This happened to Tahl in the twelfth game. Black could have continued with 31. . . . R(K5)-KR5; 32. PxR, Q-KKt5ch; 33. K-KR1, Q-KB6ch; 34. K-KKt1, PxR and White cannot defend himself against a checkmate attack. There is also no salvation for White if play continues: 32. P-KB3, Q-K6ch; 33. K-KR1, QxR; 34. PxR, Q-K7. However, Black's move in this game was 31. . . . R-K8 and matters proceeded to a "happy ending"—a draw.

This was the position after Botvinnik played 17. . . . Kt-Q1. It was the last move of the match. Botvinnik suggested that the game be called a draw and his opponent, of course, gladly accepted the offer.

Botvinnik was the first to congratulate his young rival, Mikhail Tahl, the eighth world chess champion.

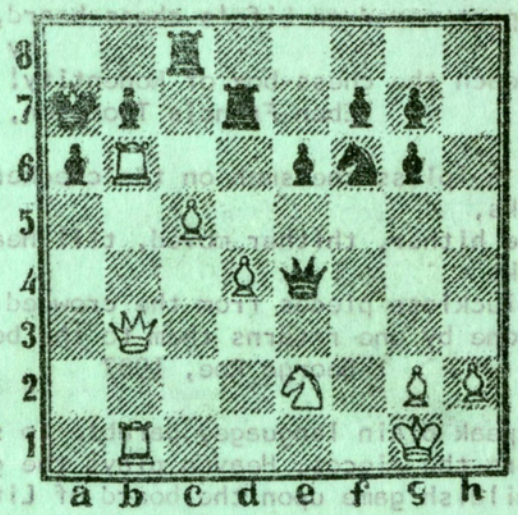
THE END

END DETOUR

### Time Trouble Spells Tragedy

White—Tahl Black—Botvinnik

Black to play

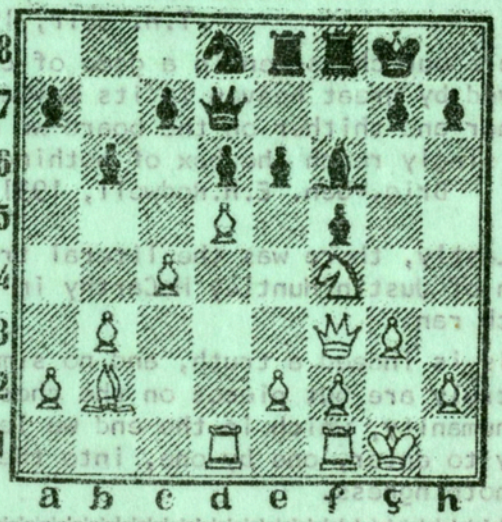


Botvinnik experienced time trouble in practically every game of the match. The seventeenth game ended tragically for him. In the position illustrated in the diagram above he committed a gross error: 39. . . . Q-Q4??; 40. RxP(QR6)ch, K-QKt1; 41. Q-QR4. Botvinnik resigned. Everyone in the tournament hall except Botvinnik saw that the only defensive move for him was 39. . . . K-QR1! and he would have won the game. This dramatic moment was the "beginning of the end" for Botvinnik.

### "Happy Birthday!"

White—Tahl Black—Botvinnik

After the last move



MORE QUATRAIN TRANSLATIONS OF OMAR KHA

(continued from page 2)

In truth and not by way of simile,
Heaven plays the game and its mere puppets we;
In sport moved on Life's chess-board, one by one
We reach the chess-box of Nonentity!
Eben Francis Thompson, 1906

Like helpless chessmen on the checkered blocks,
We're hither, thither moved, till Heaven knocks
The luckless pieces from the crowded board
And one by one rrturns them to the box.
George Roe, 1907

To speak plain language, parable to shame-
We are the pieces, Heaven plays the game-
A childish game upon the board of Life,
Then back into the box from whence we came.
E. Heron Allen, 1898 cast into metrical form by Arthur C. Talbot in 1908.

Life's but a Chess-board of dark nights, bright days,
Where Destiny with men, as Pieces, Plays!
Hither and thither Moves, and Mates, and Mawls,
Then, as in Love, in Death's Closet lays!
Published in " 'TIS TRUE", 1923.

In very truth, not as mere metaphor,
We pieces are - Heaven's player of the Game,
On Life's chess-mat we play as children do.
Anon by one and one into the box of non-existence are we swept.
T.H. Weir, 1926

We are but chess-men in a game of chess
Played by great heaven in its waywardness,
Hither and thither on the board we move,
And singly reach the box of nothingness.
Brig.-Gen. E.H.Rodwell, 1931

Lastly, there was the literal translation of Justin Huntley McCarthy in 1889 which ran:

"This is indeed a truth, and no simile, we truly are but pieces on the chessboard of humanity, which in the end we leave, only to enter, one by one, into the grave of nothingness.

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## GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI VS. 100 CHESSPLAYERS !

On December 4, 1960, in the Gold Room of the Sheraton-Palace Hotel, San Francisco, George Koltanowski will try and establish a new world record in rapid transit Blindfold Chess.

Koltanowski will play 100 opponents, one at a time, 10 seconds a move. The present world record was set by George himself at a Chronicle-sponsored show in 1951, when he won 43 games, drew 5 and lost 2. Those wishing to play should write direct to George Koltanowski, Chess Editor, The San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco 19. Watch for further details in the Daily Chess Column of the Chronicle. Mark this Chess Show of Shows off on your calendar now.

## C.F.N.C. WINTER LEAGUE results.

Richmond Rooks won the EXPERT LEAGUE with 5.5 matches won. Runners up were the San Mateo Bishops with 4.5. points.

In the EL CAMINO REAL LEAGUE, Morphy (San Quentin) and Lasker tied with 5 points apiece. The tie was broken on game points, Morphy 26, Lasker 23.

Staunton won the PENINSULA LEAGUE with 4.5 points ahead of Morphy (Redwood City) with 3.5, Pacifica, Ampex, and San Mateo Knights, also with 3.5.

The SEQUOIA LEAGUE was won by the Oakland YMCA with a score of 6.5 points. Runners-up were Berkeley with 5.5.

The WALNUT LEAGUE was won by the Richmond Rooks with 4.0 Second, came Larinda with 2.0. Full details are on P. 9.

## A Story about Chuang-tse

The person who is truly wise is the one who does not know that he is wise - so goes the Taoist doctrine. Thinking that we know, when actually we do not, is a special sickness to which all men are prone. Only when we become sick of such conceit and fraud can we cure ourselves of this sickness.

In his desire to help people, Chuang-tse (the famous Taoist) often used the touch of humour. He tells the story of how he dreamed once he was a butterfly fluttering around gaily here and there. He was completely unaware of being a man any longer. Then suddenly he awoke and found himself lying in bed, still a human being. He then had to ask himself: 'Was I then a man dreaming I was a butterfly, or am I now a butterfly dreaming I am a man?'

## An Interesting Medium for Chess Artists

Largely popularized by publicity at the Oakland Flower Show, is FEATHERROCK a lightweight rock, available in a light grey, a grey-brown, and a charcoal black. It can be used with effect in the garden but it can also be sculptured with ease. A large piece, around six foot long could be sawn, chipped, or even moulded into shape with "dragon-skin" into a figure, chessman, animal, or temple. On the other hand, interesting and durable figures can be carved out of chippings a few inches in height, with no other tools than a nail file or a piece of sandpaper.

The light grey Featherrock has a finer grain than the brown or black and is more suitable for small pieces. The black is the coarsest grain and is the toughest.

Strangely enough it is not expensive either. It is 7¢ a lb. but there is a lot of rock in a pound.

## San Bruno Chess Club News

The Club's first "Newcomers Tournament", held in June, was won by Preston Mendell of Millbrae. Mendell's play was just a little too strong for R. Meier of Burlingame in the tie-breaking play-off. Preston received a copy of "The Fireside Book of Chess". Wade Hendircks again won the early June "Rapid Transit" trophy.

The strongly contested Golden Gate Chess Club tournament ended with Dan D. McLeod, the San Bruno Club Director, tying for first place with B. Honecke of San Fransisco.

## San Mateo Chess Club News

The July edition of "CHESS CHAT" announces a Simultaneous Exhibition and Blindfold Exhibition, and Lecture, by George Koltanowski, to be held July 14th with a limit of 25 boards. (Results not to hand).

The bi-monthly rapid transit, held on May 5th, was won by Bob Henry.

San Mateo Chess Club is starting an "OPERATION FIFTY" drive for fifty members. Other Clubs take note.

## Chess Friends Shine in Pacific Northwest Open Championship

Arthur Wang and Julius Loftsson of C.F.N.C. did well in the P.N.O.C. altho James McCormick of Seattle, yielding only one draw, to Julius Loftsson, won. Wang and Loftsson came 3rd & 4th with $4\frac{1}{2}$-$1\frac{1}{2}$ each in a field of twenty-eight players.

## ALEKHINE'S DEFENSE

Second Chess Friends of Northern California Experts Tournament, held in May, 1960. Annotations by Erik Osbun.

| | White<br>D. Sutherland | Black<br>Erik Osbun |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | P-K4 | N-KB3 |
| 2. | P-K5 | N-Q4 |
| 3. | P-Q4 | P-Q3 |
| 4. | P-KB4 | PxP |
| 5. | BPxP | N-QB3(a) |
| 6. | N-Kb3 ? (b) | B-N5 |
| 7. | B-K2 | P-K3 |
| 8. | 0-0 | Q-Q2 |
| 9. | P-B3(c) | 0-0-0 |
| 10. | P-N4 ? (d) | P-B3 |
| 11. | PxP | PxP |
| 12. | P-QR4 | P-KR4 |
| 13. | P-R5 | B-R3 |
| 14. | P-N5 | N3-K2 |

(continuation)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 15. | Q-N3(e) | BxB |
| 16. | RxB | N-B5 |
| 17. | R-K1 | N2-Q4 |
| 18. | QN-Q2 | KR-N1 |
| 19. | P-B4 (f) | NxP ! |
| 20. | KxN | BxN ch (g) |
| 21. | KxB | P-K4 ! |
| 22. | K-B2 | N-B5 |
| 23. | P-Q5 | R-N7 ch. |
| 24. | K-K3 | Q-R6 ch. |
| 25. | B-B3 | N-K3 ! |
| 26. | PxN ? (h) | QxRP! |
| 27. | Resigns | |

(a) An innovation of Victor Korchnoi, 1960 Soviet Champion, is ...B-B4, deferring the development of the QN. Employing this idea, he won a beautiful game against Yefim Geller in the crucial round of the championship.

(b) An old mistake. Correct is 6. P-QB4, N-N3; 7. B-K3, avoiding the pin.

(c) A solid move. If 9. P-B4, N-N3; 10. B-K3, 0-0-0 with more than sufficient counterplay against the center pawns.

(d) Too ambitious. Better is 10. Q-K1. If 10. N-N5, BxB; 11. QxB, P-B3 and the KP is immune.

(e) White is consistent, but he has a losing position.

(f) 19. B-B1 is cracked by ...Q-N2, with the same threat. The text move weakens Q4, giving Black an idea.

(g) The White King will be caught in the center. But the quickest win is 20. ... B-R6ch; 21. K-R1 (Forced), B-N7ch; 22. K-N1, BxNch - one tempo ahead of the game variation.

(h) Allows a forced mate, but what can White do? He had only one minute on his clock to Black's two minutes. Black threatens to win a piece or the Queen with ... P-KB4. If 1. 26. Q-B3, N-Q5; 27. R-KB1, R-K7ch; 28. K-Q3, P-KB4 is very difficult for White to meet. If 2. 26. P-N6, N-Q5! is only a variant of the first line as 27. PxRp, NxQ; 28. P-R8(Q)ch, K-Q2; 29. QxP, NxN wins easily. White must play 27. Q-B3, BPxP; 28. PxP, P-R3; 29 R-KB1, R-K7ch; 30. K-Q3, P-KB4 with a similar dilemma.

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# CHESS FRIENDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - RESULTS OF THE WINTER LEAGUE

## EXPERT LEAGUE

| | Match points 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | Matches won |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Richmond Rooks | | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 5.5 |
| 2. San Mateo Bishops | 0.5 | | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 4.5 |
| 3. Oakland Hilltoppers | 0 | 0 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| 4. Evans (San Bruno) | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 | 2.5 |
| 5. Morphy (Redwd. City) | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.5 |
| 6. Oakland YMCA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | | 0.5 | 1.5 |
| 7. Pleasant Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | | 0.5 |
| Matches lost- | 0.5 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 5.5 | |

## EL CAMINO REAL LEAGUE

| | Match points 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | Matches won |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Morphy (San Quentin)* | | 0. 0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 5.0 |
| 2. Lasker* | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 5.0 |
| 3. Capablanca | 0 | 1.0 | | 1.0 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 4.5 |
| 4. Nimzovich | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| 5. Colle | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | | | | 1.0 | 1.5 |
| 6. U. S. Marines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 7. Westlake | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Matches lost | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 4.0 | 6.0 | |

*Tie broken on game points, Morphy 26, Lasker 23.

## PENINSULA LEAGUE

| | Match Points 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | Matches won |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Staunton | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | | 0.5 | 4.5 |
| 2. Morphy (Redwd City) | 0 | | | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.5 |
| 3. Pacifica* | 0 | 1.0 | | 0.5 | 0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.5 |
| 4. Ampex* | 0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.5 |
| 5. San Mateo Knights | 0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0.5 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.5 |
| 6. Hewlitt-Packard | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 7. Fairchild | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0.5 |
| Matches lost | 0.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 4.0 | 5.5 | |

*Tie for 3rd and 4th in both match and game points.

## SEQUOIA LEAGUE

| | Match Points 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | Matches won |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Oakland YMCA | | 1.0 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 6.5 |
| 2. Berkeley | 1.0 | | 1.0 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 5.5 |
| 3. Shell Development | 0 | 1.0 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| 4. Hayward | 0.5 | 0 | 1.0 | | 1.0 | 2.5 |
| 5. Oakland Hilltprs. | 0 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | | 2.5 |
| Matches lost | 1.5 | 2.5 | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.5 | |

## WALNUT LEAGUE

| | Match points 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | Matches won |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Richmond Rooks | | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| 2. Larinda | 0 | | 1.5 | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| 3. Concord | 0 | 0.5 | | 1.0 | 1.5 |
| 4. Pleasant Hill | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | | 0.5 |
| Matches lost | 0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | |

# A LETTER FROM THE LAND OF CHESS

by

Willard Fiske*

Always in the great and fertile country of Fantasy lies a curious colony as venerable for its age as it is remarkable for its character. During some thousands of years, its inhabitants have lived almost the same sort of life, pursuing, with but slight variations, the avocations of their fathers, unmoved by the rise and fall of nations and unaltered by the lapse of time. Since the early days of this settlement, all conquering Persia, mysterious Egypt, learned Greece, and mighty Rome have passed away. Cyrus and Pharaoh and Alexander and Caesar have become shadows and dust. Notwithstanding its reverend antiquity and its singular customs, multitudes of men do not even know of its existence. The erudite and the powerful have attempted in vain to explore it thoroughly and satisfactorily. Only a few, led by enthusiasm and aided by perseverence, have been able to master the hidden secrets of this wonderful region. In our leisure hours, we have been accustomed to meditate long and ernestly upon its mysterious existence. Our readers will, therefore, heartily appreciate the sensations of joy with which we received the following epistle from one of the dwellers in that colony. It professes to present a good and reliable account of the marvels of that quarter of the broad realm in which it is situated.

Chessland, October, 1850

Sirs:

Aware of the interest which you have manifested in our affairs, I propose to give you a brief sketch of the origin and progress of our little settlement. You may perhaps know how, far back in the times of fable, our ancestors, thirty-two in number, took possession of this quadrangle of land which we still hold. The number was composed of two different races, resembling each other in many of their mental and internal peculiarities, but as dissimilar in outward form and visage as White and Black. The land taken was carefully divided into sixty-four square lots, of which on opposite sides each race held sixteen; the remainder were to be used as common property. But, hardly had the preliminary arrangements been settled than the individuals of each stock began to quarrel upon the ground set aside as common. This feud has continued, with only brief interruptions, down to the present day. Indeed the forces of both parties employ most of their time in deploying and marching and countermarching. Individuals are captured, lots are occupied and troops driven into corners, until at length one side is generally soundly beaten, and then both parties seem to tire of the conflict, prisoners are restored, and the adversaries resume their former positions. Sometimes the contestants each become so weak from loss of men that neither can hope to conquer, and this equally puts to an end, for the moment, to the fight. These conflicts are sometimes begun by one side, sometimes by the other. Chance only seems to determine this matter. I state this fact because, in the many books which certain officious persons have seen fit to indite concerning us, it is generally taught that the party known as the Whites always begins.

The families which compose our colony are all distinguished by different names and characterized by peculiar qualities. These names and these qualities have been transmitted with almost unerring exactness from generation to generation. The Kings are separated from their fellow citizens both by the loftiness of their stature and the indolence of their dispositions. They are very rarely aroused into action, hesitate to assault their enemies, and, when attacked, either quietly move aside, or depend upon some of their friends to interpose and save them. Yet such is the

estimation in which they are held by both the Whites and the Blacks that, when one of them is so hedged around with foemen as to be unable to extricate himself, his party, rather than lose him, directly resigns the contest. The Queens are the most influential and powerful family of your commonwealth. Though not overbold at the commencement of a contest, their bravery and daring always increase as the fight goes on, and they exhibit their immense powers in manifold exploits and grand achievements. Should one of them be accidentally captured, the adverse party always regards victory as certain.

Modesty forbids me to say much about the Rooks. Let it suffice that we are generally considered as the most upright and straightforward of the denizens of Chessland, from our habit of moving, when we do act, in right lines. From our superior strength and well-developed faculty of resisting attacks we have been compared to firmly built castles, and have been chosen to guard the four angles of the domain. We have long been the fast friends of the Kings, and generally contrive once during each battle, by a peculiar movement, to shelter them from attack at the same time that we throw ourselves into the contest.

Of the Bishops, there is little to relate. Each of the chess races possesses two individuals of this name, and yet so strong is the hatred of those belonging to the same stock that one of them can never be induced to go into a house that has been occupied by the other, or to pursue a path which his relative has trod. (Editor's note: The word "house" is used by many nations instead of square, e.g. Spanish and Portuguese "casa").

The most erratic members of our state are undoubtedly the knights. In their methods of attack and in all their motions, they are totally unlike any of the rest of us. They do not hesitate, in their ardor, to leap over the heads of friends and foes. If they once assault the leader of their opponents, they will never allow any of his followers to interpose and protect him, but stoutly insist upon his moving; or else they themselves will submit to capture.

The Pawns are the most numerous members of our body politic; indeed, in point of numbers, though not of power, they are equal to all the others united. Though diminutive in size, they are sturdy in soul and have never been known to retreat. They deal a sort of sideways blow at their enemies, which is always fatal. They are slow in their march, but when once they have completely crossed the extent of our territory and have successfully penetrated into the innermost lines of the adverse army, their very nature all at once changes and they assume the demeanor and powers of leading officers. Clothed with a new being, they immediately take up a prominent position, and in the vigo of their re-creation deal destructive blows on every hand. One of this family, styled En-Passant, has been a frequent subject of dispute among the writers on our affairs. His character has been often misapprehended, and the comparative rarity of his appearance has, perhaps, conduced to increase the misunderstanding.

Much more might I write, but I refrain from wearing out your patience lest you should decline to receive any future communication from

Yours truly
B. K. Rook

TO THE EDITORS OF THE CHESS MONTHLY.

In answer to our obliging correspondent we can only thank him for the light he has thrown upon the peculiarities of this distant community and express our hearty desire to receive still further information concerning the singular colony of which his family form so distinguished and influential a part.

(Published in 1858 in the Chess Monthly).

## ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE

This edition of "Chess in Action" seems to have turned out into a sort of Alekhine Memorial edition. So here we will end the bulletin with a game betwwen Bogoljobow and Dr. Tarrasch, played in the Breslau Tourney, 1925. The annotations are from various authors and have been put together by Dr. J. Schumer.

| | White | Black |
|---|---|---|
| | E.D.Bogoljubow | Dr. S. Tarrasch |
| 1. | P-K4 | |

Orthodoxy is my doxy; hererodoxy is another man's doxy (Bishop Warburton).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ... | Kt-KB3 |

Those things which are not practical are not desirable (Ed. Burke).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. | P-K5 | Kt-Q4 |
| 3. | Kt-KB3 | P-Q3 |
| 4. | P-Q4 | |

There is majesty in simplicity which is far above the quaintness of wit (Pope).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | B-B4 |
| 5. | B-Q3 | B-Kt.3 |

One may go wrong in many different ways, but right only in one (Aristotle).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6. | P-B4 | Kt-Kt3 |

He was a veray parfit gentil Knight (Chaucer)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7. | BxB | RPxB |
| 8. | P-K6! | |

The first day a man is a guest, the second a burden, the third a pest (Laboulaye).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ... | P-KB3 |
| 9. | Q-Q3 | Q-B1 |
| 10. | QxPch. | K-Q1 |

The King himself has followed her when she has walked before (Goldsmith).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11. | Q-B7 | |

I hope I don't intrude (J. Poole).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ... | KtxP |
| 12. | QKt-Q2 | KtxKt |
| 13. | BxKt | |

The dove found rest for the sole of her foot (Old Testament).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | P-KKt4 |
| 14. | P-Q5 | P-QB4 |
| 15. | B-B3 | P-Kt5 |
| 16. | Kt-R4 | RxKt |

If you get your head stuck in a bog, your legs may's well go after it. (George Eliot).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17. | QxBch | K-B2 |
| 18. | QxPch | K-Kt3 |
| 19. | QxPch | K-Kt4 |

When first I attempted your pity to move,/ You seem'd deaf to my sighs and my prayers;/ Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love,/ But why did you kick me downstairs? (J.P.Kemble).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 20. | P-R4ch | K-B5 |
| 21. | Q-B4ch | KxP |
| 22. | Castles QRch. | Resigns |

Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note. (C. Wolfe).